

MICHAEL SNELLING vs. OFFICER STROY
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1 the cell.	1 Q. Thomas?
2 Q. Okay.	2
3 A. Around 1 and 2 p.m. Officer Stroy came and said, Cell	3 A. Yeah.
4 14, this is your free time, do whatever you want to do. Okay.	4 Q. Okay.
5 I didn't know he was out of his cell, Inmate Thomas. I didn't	5 A. And plus he was GD and, you know, --
6 know he was out of his cell. But I'm at the kiosk, which is	6 Q. Meaning part of a gang?
7 the system that you order your commissary --	7 A. Right. Right. So he can be on the upper floor.
8 Q. Okay.	8 Q. Okay.
9 A. I had to run and get ready to go back upstairs to	9 A. To make the story short, he didn't come up to the
10 sleep. My roommate -- I'm trying to think of his name.	10 stairs by the camera where Officer Stroy was standing at. He
11 Q. That's okay. You can just call him your roommate.	11 bypassed those stairs.
12 A. He had a call out to medical. At that time --	12 Q. When you say, he, you talking about Thomas?
13 Q. Meaning that he was gone to medical?	13 A. Thomas.
14 A. Right, at 700.	14 Q. Okay.
15 Q. Okay.	15 A. He bypassed the stairs, came up towards my way where
16 A. So 700 and 600 is side by side each other. And you	16 the kiosk is at up to the other stairs because his room was
17 have cameras in each every cell on the floor and in the zone.	17 610. Swear under oath, without a doubt, I hit the floor so
18 Q. Okay.	18 hard. There's a scar right here to prove it. I have a plate
19 A. At that time I didn't pay no attention. My glasses	19 in my neck. I was pronounced dead before I got on the gurney.
20 got broke and all of this was hanging below my eye. He stabbed	20 At that time I stayed in the hospital for a total of 11 days.
21 me with a weapon.	21 I didn't get out of the hospital until about January.
22 Q. Where did he stab you?	22 Q. Okay.
23 A. By my right eye.	23 A. All I'm saying that Officer Stroy had a job to do and
24 Q. By my right eye.	24 he did not do the job right. And what he did he stood there
25 A. Officer Stroy, he talked the officer of taking	25 and watched this inmate jump me. And when I passed out, I went
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1 handcuffs off of him and let him walk to his cell by himself.	1 into a seizure, which they said a coma. And I blacked out.
2 The officer stood there. This inmate has no handcuffs on him.	2 Q. Well, I want to ask you a couple of questions. So
3 So he's at the red zone of the door at the entrance of the jail	3 first off you said he stood there and watched the inmate jump
4 on the 7th side of 600.	4 you. Did you know the inmate was about to jump you?
5 Q. Okay.	5 A. No.
6 A. At that time I didn't notice nothing. There's two	6 Q. Well, how -- and this is pure speculation, but how
7 sets of stairs in the Fulton County Jail.	7 would Officer Stroy have known that the inmate was about to
8 Q. And let me stop you. You're claiming -- why should	8 jump you?
9 he have had handcuffs on?	9 A. Because me and that -- I'm going to be truthful. Me
10 A. Because that's the rule.	10 and the inmate had a problem because every time my cell mate
11 Q. Okay.	11 would say something about him or something or, you know, being
12 A. Anytime you're in admin lockdown, you must have	12 too friendly, and I don't get along with people because of my
13 handcuffs on.	13 mental health issues.
14 Q. Okay. And so he was on admin lockdown because of the	14 Q. Okay.
15 phone and you were on admin lockdown because of the marijuana?	15 A. Not to bring that up in the record.
16 A. No, no. I wasn't on lockdown.	16 Q. I understand.
17 Q. Oh, you weren't? Okay.	17 A. I don't get along with certain people. I'm a loner.
18 A. I just wanted to be there.	18 I'm just -- you know, don't ask me for nothing. Don't bother
19 Q. Oh, okay.	19 me. Don't get me involved.
20 A. Because it's getting away from the irritation.	20 Q. Okay. So you had a conflict with Thomas?
21 Q. So there was nothing that caused you to be on	21 A. So that's right.
22 lockdown?	22 Q. And what was the conflict a result of?
23 A. No.	23 A. It had something to do with my cell mate.
24 Q. But he was on lockdown because of the phone?	24 Q. Okay.
25 A. Yeah.	25 A. And he was the cause of it because I believe my cell

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<p>1 mate wasn't -- Thomas wouldn't let him use the phone.</p> <p>2 Q. Oh, okay. I see.</p> <p>3 A. Where I was in the wrong by putting money on this</p> <p>4 phone.</p> <p>5 Q. I see.</p> <p>6 A. He didn't mention he had a phone. It went on the</p> <p>7 wall phone, so I had to get my people to reverse it to that.</p> <p>8 That came to a big problem. So I had it stopped because I</p> <p>9 didn't know he stole somebody else's phone.</p> <p>10 Q. So the conflict was basically because you cut off</p> <p>11 access to somebody's phone?</p> <p>12 A. Right.</p> <p>13 Q. I'm following you. Okay.</p> <p>14 A. And there was a contract involved. He said there was</p> <p>15 going to be four people; me and him -- and I had the tablet. I</p> <p>16 made phone calls. Okay? But he lied to me and said it was</p> <p>17 going to be four people. You've got zone 6, 100, 200, 300</p> <p>18 riding off \$163.</p> <p>19 Q. This is your roommate you're referring to?</p> <p>20 A. Inmate Newton Thomas -- Well, Thomas.</p> <p>21 Q. All right.</p> <p>22 A. Officer Stroy was one day -- I can't think back, but</p> <p>23 it was somewhere between -- around November. Thomas was asking</p> <p>24 him to bring another phone in because he was trying to sell</p> <p>25 them. So he came to my cell one day showing me different</p>	<p>1 (ph), he's the one who got me to Grady Hospital when it took</p> <p>2 place.</p> <p>3 Q. Okay.</p> <p>4 A. I'm trying to think of some other names. The</p> <p>5 sergeant that worked with Officer Stroy, I can't think of his</p> <p>6 name. He's a black male. Anyway, he said he was going to</p> <p>7 handle it by trying to get him to see a lawyer and have</p> <p>8 somebody come talk to me. He never did.</p> <p>9 Q. Okay.</p> <p>10 A. So I talked to Major Walker. They had me on MSU or</p> <p>11 something like that, MOU, which was something like protective</p> <p>12 custody. They had me on the 6th floor.</p> <p>13 Q. Okay. Because you had been getting threats from</p> <p>14 Inmate Thomas?</p> <p>15 A. Other inmates, yes.</p> <p>16 Q. Oh, other inmates?</p> <p>17 A. Other inmates.</p> <p>18 Q. Including Thomas?</p> <p>19 A. Yes.</p> <p>20 Q. Okay.</p> <p>21 A. And it's all through the phones. All they do is send</p> <p>22 one text or phone call, which everybody had everybody's phone</p> <p>23 number in that jail.</p> <p>24 Q. Okay.</p> <p>25 A. And that's what took place.</p>
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<p>1 phones, how much they cost. They were like \$30, \$40, depending</p> <p>2 on what you get.</p> <p>3 Q. Okay.</p> <p>4 A. So I said I'm not getting involved with this. So I</p> <p>5 told my people about it. So before the accident happened --</p> <p>6 Q. And who were your people?</p> <p>7 A. I'm fixing to get you the names now.</p> <p>8 Q. Okay.</p> <p>9 A. Khajedius -- I can't say it. It's K-h-a-j-e-d-i-u-s?</p> <p>10 Q. That's your girlfriend?</p> <p>11 A. No.</p> <p>12 Q. Oh, okay.</p> <p>13 A. Just a friend.</p> <p>14 Q. Okay. Just a lady friend?</p> <p>15 A. Yeah.</p> <p>16 Q. Okay.</p> <p>17 A. Cause she do my money for me.</p> <p>18 Q. Okay. So just a family member? Do you keep in touch</p> <p>19 with Khajedius?</p> <p>20 A. All the time.</p> <p>21 Q. Okay.</p> <p>22 A. So I had her to contact classification to have me</p> <p>23 moved before anything took place and it was never done. She</p> <p>24 said she called the jailer, which was the other jailer and he</p> <p>25 didn't do nothing. Major Walker is involved. Sergeant Grill</p>	<p>1 Q. Okay.</p> <p>2 A. I almost had a fight on 6 North and I was in a</p> <p>3 one-man cell where all of my commissary was stolen. Then I</p> <p>4 almost got stabbed up. Then going to court. This happened on</p> <p>5 June -- I was going to court and Inmate Thomas was right in</p> <p>6 front of my face at that time and the State was supposed to</p> <p>7 keep us separated from cell to cell going to court. He started</p> <p>8 saying I did this and I did that.</p> <p>9 Q. They're supposed to keep all the inmates separated</p> <p>10 and you specifically from Inmate Thomas?</p> <p>11 A. Me separate.</p> <p>12 Q. From Inmate Thomas?</p> <p>13 A. Yes.</p> <p>14 Q. So let me ask you this: So it sounds as if, you</p> <p>15 know, officers were aware of that fact that there were ongoing</p> <p>16 issues, correct? Am I correct about that?</p> <p>17 A. Right.</p> <p>18 Q. Including Officer Stroy, but, again, on that</p> <p>19 particular day when he un-cuffed this gentleman so that he</p> <p>20 could walk to his cell, what evidence do you have that Officer</p> <p>21 Stroy had any awareness that Inmate Thomas was about to swing</p> <p>22 on you?</p> <p>23 A. Because when he came in --</p> <p>24 Q. And who is he?</p> <p>25 A. Thomas.</p>

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<p>1 Q. Okay.</p> <p>2 A. He came in and swung and hit me. And then I was on</p> <p>3 MOU. I can remember the officer coming back telling me that</p> <p>4 Thomas said he talked Officer Stroy of letting him walk back to</p> <p>5 his cell on his own.</p> <p>6 Q. Okay.</p> <p>7 A. That's a violation of the codes.</p> <p>8 Q. I understand that. And that all could be true, but</p> <p>9 that still doesn't answer my question. How could Officer Stroy</p> <p>10 have known that he was going to take that opportunity, he being</p> <p>11 Nyron Thomas, to swing on you, to attack you, to assault you?</p> <p>12 A. I say this because any other person as me being in</p> <p>13 that jail, not one officer or lieutenant ever let an inmate</p> <p>14 walk to his cell with another inmate out of the cell. Instead</p> <p>15 he's saying, go to your cell until I escort this inmate to the</p> <p>16 jail.</p> <p>17 Q. Okay. I understand that. And let's say he made a</p> <p>18 very poor decision of doing that, but that still doesn't get to</p> <p>19 the heart of how Officer Stroy would have known that this</p> <p>20 gentleman would have taken the opportunity to try to attack</p> <p>21 you. Do you have any evidence that Officer Stroy knew that</p> <p>22 when he took those handcuffs off, that this gentleman was</p> <p>23 coming to attack you?</p> <p>24 A. I ain't got evidence on camera because I'm not trying</p> <p>25 to get nobody for their money. It's just what happened to me</p>	<p>1 Q. Yes, as he approached you.</p> <p>2 A. -- knocked me out.</p> <p>3 Q. And he was one swing that he knocked you out?</p> <p>4 A. With a weapon.</p> <p>5 Q. Okay. With a weapon.</p> <p>6 A. And when my head hit that ground, my back is still</p> <p>7 messed up.</p> <p>8 Q. I understand.</p> <p>9 A. I barely could stand up.</p> <p>10 Q. But with all that said, it's not as if there was an</p> <p>11 ongoing fight that resulted between you and Thomas?</p> <p>12 A. He should've called for backup and he never called</p> <p>13 backup.</p> <p>14 Q. But how do you know that? You said you passed out.</p> <p>15 So how do you know if he never called for backup?</p> <p>16 A. Listen, I'm not trying to confuse myself.</p> <p>17 Q. I'm not trying to confuse either. But you said you</p> <p>18 had hit the floor and passed out?</p> <p>19 A. When I hit that floor -- you know how you get hit and</p> <p>20 you hit the floor?</p> <p>21 Q. Fortunately I've never had that to happen, but I can</p> <p>22 imagine.</p> <p>23 A. I got up and --</p> <p>24 Q. But you did say that you passed out, right?</p> <p>25 A. I passed out.</p>
<p>1 could have happened to anybody.</p> <p>2 Q. I understand. And that something that happened to</p> <p>3 you was very bad. And I get that. But what I'm trying to get</p> <p>4 at is with Officer Stroy, how did he have any idea what was</p> <p>5 happening to you? You acknowledge you didn't have any idea of</p> <p>6 what was about to happen to you, right?</p> <p>7 A. When I got hit, --</p> <p>8 Q. Say yes or no, and then you can explain your answer.</p> <p>9 You didn't have any knowledge that this man was about to --</p> <p>10 A. I never did.</p> <p>11 Q. So how would anybody have known this man, other than</p> <p>12 him, being Mr. Thomas, was about to swing on you?</p> <p>13 A. Me and Thomas had ups and downs.</p> <p>14 Q. I understand.</p> <p>15 A. I'm getting to the part about Officer Stroy.</p> <p>16 Q. Okay.</p> <p>17 A. Officer Stroy had dealings with him. Officer Stroy</p> <p>18 stood at that red zone. Instead of stopping this inmate to</p> <p>19 come up to the stairs by him or getting that escort, which is</p> <p>20 back up, which is a sergeant or lieutenant to escort this</p> <p>21 inmate back to his cell. He stood at that red zone and watch</p> <p>22 all this took place until I collapsed on my face.</p> <p>23 Q. Well, when you say, watched all it took place, did</p> <p>24 he --</p> <p>25 A. As in the inmate approached me, --</p>	<p>1 Q. So how do you know he didn't call for backup?</p> <p>2 A. Because when I came in and I got back up and sat on</p> <p>3 the stairs, that's when I collapsed again. That's when the</p> <p>4 lieutenant came in.</p> <p>5 Q. Okay. But that doesn't mean Officer Stroy didn't</p> <p>6 call backup? How do you know he didn't call backup?</p> <p>7 A. I can't really say.</p> <p>8 Q. That's exactly right.</p> <p>9 A. I can't say.</p> <p>10 Q. You can't say.</p> <p>11 A. Anyway, from the beginning, we're looking at the</p> <p>12 beginning.</p> <p>13 Q. I understand.</p> <p>14 A. When there should have been handcuffs on the inmate</p> <p>15 and another escort in the cell of the zone at that time.</p> <p>16 Q. I understand what you're saying. So your issue is</p> <p>17 that he broke policy, but him breaking policy doesn't mean that</p> <p>18 he was deliberately indifferent to the fact that this other</p> <p>19 inmate -- that he knew that this other inmate was going to</p> <p>20 assault you. What evidence do you have that he knew -- Officer</p> <p>21 Stroy knew that the moment he took those handcuffs off that he</p> <p>22 had an intention to come and assault you? And when I say, he,</p> <p>23 I'm talking about Nyron Thomas.</p> <p>24 A. I have a proof, but I sent the request in.</p> <p>25 Q. Okay. Well, tell me what it is. That's why we've</p>

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1 at and that's the front entrance. He came in my direction and	1 Snelling. She can send you a copy of the deposition here.
2 knocked the stairs that way knowing there was a set of stairs	2 (DEPOSITION CONCLUDED AT 12:45 P.M.)
3 by the kiosk.	3
4 Q. So he bypassed the stairs and came in your direction?	4
5 A. Yes.	5
6 MR. JACKSON: He came towards your front?	6
7 THE WITNESS: He came towards me.	7
8 MR. JACKSON: So he didn't come from your blind side	8
9 or anything?	9
10 THE WITNESS: No, he just came straight at me. I	10
11 didn't pay no attention to him because my back was turned.	11
12 And all I felt was a deep punch.	12
13 BY MS. PALMER:	13
14 Q. You said your back was turned?	14
15 A. My back was like -- say, this is the kiosk. But my	15
16 back my like turned to the side. I seen him coming.	16
17 Q. Out of your peripheral vision you could see him	17
18 coming?	18
19 A. Right where the kiosk is.	19
20 Q. Okay.	20
21 A. I seen him coming at me from the entrance.	21
22 Q. Towards the front of your body?	22
23 A. Right. And missed the set of stairs.	23
24 Q. But you didn't think anything about it?	24
25 A. No.	25
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1 MR. JACKSON: So he wasn't running or anything?	1 CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER
2 THE WITNESS: No. I thought he was normal until I	2
3 hit that floor.	3 GEORGIA, HOUSTON COUNTY:
4 MR. JACKSON: Right.	4
5 THE WITNESS: I'm trying to remember everything I	5 I, Kimberly "Cissi" Goolsby, Georgia Certified Court
6 can.	6 Reporter B-2043, certify that acting in such capacity
7 MR. JACKSON: And once he hit you, you pretty much	7 on May, 30 2017, I Reported the deposition of Michael Snelling
8 lost consciousness immediately?	8 and on the foregoing pages, both inclusive, have
9 THE WITNESS: Yeah. And then when I got up, I was	9 transcribed or have had transcribed under my direction
10 still shaking and blood was dripping all over the place.	10 a true and accurate account of such testimony.
11 It was everywhere. And I made it to the stairs. So the	11
12 words I could hear from Officer Stroy's mouth, sit down.	12 I FURTHER CERTIFY that I am not counsel for nor
13 I sat down and tried to balance myself. And then the last	13 related to any of the parties; nor am I interested in
14 few words came from my mouth, I'm about to go into a	14 the event or outcome thereof.
15 seizure. My body started locking up. When I fell off the	15
16 stairs, that's when they called backup.	16 WITNESS MY OFFICIAL SEAL and signature, this 23rd day
17 BY MS. PALMER:	17 of June 2017.
18 Q. So Officer Stroy was trying to render aid and he told	18
19 you to sit down. I mean, you were moving around obviously?	19
20 A. When I hit that floor, I got up.	20
21 Q. And that's when he told you to sit back down?	21
22 A. Yeah, because they didn't know what was broken or	22
23 what was messed up on.	23 Kimberly B. Goolsby, CCR. B-203
24 Q. I understand.	24
25 MS. PALMER: Okay, that's it. Thank you so much, Mr.	25